Magnolia hypoleuca

A big, often multiple-stemmed tree with a loose, spreading crown and a smooth bark that turns from light brown into grey. The dark green to purple-brown twigs have grey lenticels and dark purple-brown buds. The obovate leaf is very large, 40 to 45 cm at a maximum. On top the leaf is shiny and fresh green, underneath it is strikingly blue pruinose. In early summer cream-white flowers appear that can reach 20 cm across. The cream-white petals are sometimes greenish or purple red tinged. The stamens are strikingly red at the base. The flowers have a strong but pleasant melon-fragrance. They are followed by elongated, purple-red compound receptacles that are 12 - 17 cm large. These fruits contain orange seeds. Becomes a magnificent solitary cultivar with age.